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News Release

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Share! #Durham awards @SEEDS_nc the @DurhamStormH2O STAR certification for water pollution prevention

Durham Awards Stormwater STAR Certification to SEEDS

DURHAM, N.C. – A Durham non-profit has just received recognition for setting an example of environmental stewardship in the area of water pollution prevention.

The Stormwater and GIS Services Division of the City of Durham Public Works Department has recognized [SEEDS](#) for completing a year-long program to become certified as a [Stormwater STAR business](#).

The Stormwater STAR recognition program began in 2014 as a way for businesses to show off the good things they are doing to protect creeks, rivers, and lakes in Durham. Everyday tasks like picking up litter, checking outside storage bins, and proper disposal of everything from grease to mop water help prevent storm drain pollution. There are currently eight participants in the Stormwater STAR program representing a variety of business sectors.

SEEDs became a Stormwater STAR by first answering questions about their current pollution prevention practices. The organization then went through stormwater pollution prevention training with City staff and set and achieved pollution prevention goals.

According to Pollution Prevention Coordinator Emily Rhode with the Stormwater and GIS Services Division of the City's Public Works Department, SEEDs has created an extensive rainwater harvesting system and implemented best practices to prevent stormwater pollution at their campus, such as posting procedures for properly storing chemicals. "Our STAR businesses have made protecting Durham's creeks and streams a priority," said Rhode. "They

want to show the community that being good stewards of our environment is simple and makes good business sense.”

To see the full list of businesses in the STAR program or to learn more about STAR businesses in Durham, visit the [STAR business recognition website](#). Businesses that are interested in joining are encouraged to fill out an [online registration form](#) or contact Rhode at (919) 560-4326, ext. 30295 or by [email](#).

About the Public Works Department Stormwater and GIS Services Division

The [Stormwater and GIS Services Division](#) with the City of Durham Public Works Department is guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#) goals of stewardship of the City's physical and environmental assets and innovative and high-performing organization. Activities include storm drainage design and plans review; inspecting and maintaining City-owned drainage systems; enforcing stormwater ordinances and regulations; education and outreach; stream monitoring, restoration, and watershed master planning; maintaining multiple layers of the City's geographic information; and stormwater billing. To learn more, visit the division's [Web page](#), like on [Facebook](#), and follow on [Twitter](#).

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